

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 02427 01 OF 03 080737Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 EB-08 /105 W
-----055683 080837Z /11

R 080716Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 BERLIN 02427

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GE, US
SUBJECT: BRUNO KREISKY IN EAST BERLIN

1. SUMMARY: THE STATE VISIT OF AUSTRIAN
CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY TO THE GDR CAN BE REGARDED
AS A SUCCESS FOR BOTH SIDES. KREISKY MET WITH
PREMIER WILLI STOPH AND SED CHIEF AND CHIEF
OF STATE HONECKER. HE HELD A WELL-ATTENDED
PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 02427 01 OF 03 080737Z

THAT HUMAN RIGHTS HAD BECOME A SUBJECT
OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION. FOR THE GDR AND
AUSTRIA THE TRIP HAS REINFORCED AND INCREASED
THE GROWING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THESE TWO
CENTRAL EUROPEAN STATES. FOR THE GDR IT MARKS
ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE PURSUIT OF
DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL LEGITIMACY. IN

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, GDR LEADERS REITERATED EAST GERMAN POSITIONS ON CSCE, DETENTE, INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE NEUTRON BOMB ALTHOUGH IN MODERATE TERMS. THE AUSTRIANS REITERATED THEIR VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED EUROPEAN SECURITY AND STABILITY AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRIA'S NEUTRALITY. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS NEUTRAL IN TONE AND EVEN-HANDED. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S THREE-DAY STATE VISIT TO THE GDR, MARCH 30-APRIL 1, WAS THE SECOND VISIT OF A EUROPEAN NON-COMMUNIST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OR CHIEF OF STATE (THE FIRST BEING THAT OF FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN IN SEPTEMBER 1977). THE GDR TREATED THE VISIT AS A MAJOR POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EVENT.

3. MOST OF KREISKY'S TALKS WERE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART STOPH, BUT HE ALSO MET WITH ERICH HONECKER. BOTH DELEGATIONS WERE HEAVY WITH TRADE AND ECONOMIC PERSONALITIES. ON THE GDR SIDE THESE INCLUDED SED POLITBURO SECRETARY GUENTER MITTAG AND STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE GERHARD BEIL. THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION INCLUDED MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY JOSEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 02427 01 OF 03 080737Z

STARIBACHER AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR, NEW HEAD OF THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, FRIEDRICH BAUER. THE GDR AND AUSTRIA SIGNED SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND VETERINARY AGREEMENTS. NO DETAILS OF THESE AGREEMENTS HAVE YET BEEN GIVEN.

4. IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE VISIT, BOTH SIDES PLACED HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR "ALL-EUROPEAN COOPERATION" ON PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY, AN INDIRECT EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BREZHNEV HLM PROPOSALS.

5. BOTH SIDES ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS AND AFRICA. THESE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN WERE EVENHANDED BY GDR STANDARDS. GDR PUBLIC STATEMENTS (PRINCIPALLY BY PREMIER WILLI STOPH) WERE NOTABLY LESS HARSH

ON US AND WESTERN POLICIES THAN IS NORMAL IN THE GDR. IN THEIR STATEMENTS THE AUSTRIANS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 1955 STATE TREATY. IN ADDITION, THE AUSTRIANS USED THE OCCASION TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF VIENNA AS A UNITED NATIONS AND CONFERENCE CENTER.

6. A MAJOR PORTION OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT ISSUES. NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO OR CONDEMNATION OF THE "NEUTRON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 02427 02 OF 03 080748Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 /105 W
-----055902 080837Z /11

R 080716Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7089
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 BERLIN 02427

BOMB" WAS MADE (NORMALLY A FAVORITE THEME OF GDR PUBLIC STATEMENTS) ALTHOUGH THE DANGER OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OF ALL KINDS WAS EMPHASIZED.

7. KREISKY MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WERE DULY REPORTED IN THE EAST GERMAN PRESS. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS HAD BECOME A CATEGORY OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 02427 02 OF 03 080748Z

CITING AUSTRIA'S CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELDS OF REFUGEES, KREISKY SAID THAT PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS WAS NOT BEST ACHIEVED BY "BIG SPECTACULAR GESTURES" BECAUSE SUCH AN APPROACH IS NOT EFFECTIVE. IN THE SAME CONTEXT HE EXPRESSED INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR PERSONS WITH AUSTRIAN CITIZENSHIP IN THE GDR (OF WHICH THERE ARE 10,000).

8. RESPONDING TO PRESS QUERIES, KREISKY AVOIDED BEING DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, BUT USED HIS EAST BERLIN VISIT TO PRAISE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE LEADERS OF THE TWO GERMAN STATES TO WORK FOR A FURTHERING OF DETENTE. HE SAID THAT THE CONTINUING PEACE IN THE TERRITORY OF THE TWO GERMAN STATES WAS IN THE FIRST LINE OF THE FUTURE OF DETENTE. KREISKY MADE NO MENTION OF THE SUBJECT OF BERLIN AND IT IS NOT REFERRED TO IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

9. BOTH THE AUSTRIANS AND THE GDR USED THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO PROMOTE THEIR ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP, CONCLUDING CONTRACTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH THE WEST GERMAN MEDIA HAVE REPORTED AS HAVING A TOTAL VALUE OF \$900 MILLION. AMONG THE DEALS CONCLUDED WERE A CONTRACT BETWEEN VOEST-ALPINE AND MASCHINENEXPORT ON 1978 TRADE, A TEN-YEAR "COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT " BETWEEN THE SAME PARTIES, WHICH WE ASSUME REPRESENTS A LARGE CHUNK OF THE \$900 MILLION, AND SALE OF A STEAM GENERATION PLANT BY WAAGNER-BIRO TO INDUSTRIENANLAGEN-IMPORT. TREATMENT OF ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE COMMUNIQUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 02427 02 OF 03 080748Z

AND IN GDR REPORTS STRESSES MUTUAL INTEREST IN TRADE EXPANSION, IN INCREASING THE INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH PARTIES IN LARGE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE OTHER COUNTRY, AND IN COOPERATIVE

EFFORTS ON THIRD-COUNTRY MARKETS.

10. KREISKY CHARACTERIZED THE AUSTRIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TRADE RELATIONS AT HIS APRIL 1 PRESS CONFERENCE IN A REMARK THAT THE EAST GERMANS GAVE WIDE PLAY. ASKED THE REASON FOR (PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED) SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS VISIT, KREISKY SAID "...BECAUSE WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP THAT IS NOT BURDENED; BECAUSE WE DISTINGUISH CLEARLY BETWEEN CONVICTIONS (GESINNUNG) AND BUSINESS. WE DON'T COMPROMISE OUR CONVICTIONS ON ACCOUNT OF BUSINESS, BUT WE DON'T BURDEN OUR BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH QUESTIONS OF CONVICTIONS."

11. AT A RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, KREISKY SOUGHT OUT THE AMBASSADOR AND EXPRESSED HIGH ESTEEM FOR PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRAISED THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

12. COMMENT. THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS FOR BOTH SIDES. FOR THE GDR THE VISIT WAS SIGNIFICANT AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN "NORMALIZING" GDR RELATIONS WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST STATES OF EUROPE. THE VISIT OF KREISKY, AS A STATESMAN OF MORE THAN REGIONAL STATURE, IS SEEN BY THE GDR AS ADVANCING ITS POLICY OF BEING ACCEPTED AS A SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATE WITH SECURE AND PERMANENT BORDERS. THE VISIT MAY HAVE ALSO SERVED TO REASSURE THE EAST GERMAN POPULATION THAT THE GDR IS ACCEPTED AS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 02427 03 OF 03 080750Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 /105 W
-----055922 080836Z /11

R 080716Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 BERLIN 02427

PART OF THE LARGER GERMAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS
AND THAT ITS LONG ISOLATION IS PERMANENTLY OVER.
THE GDR SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ON ITS BEST
BEHAVIOR AND DID NOT PRESS SUCH ISSUES AS BERLIN
AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
OTHER NATIONS. THE SUCCESSFUL VISIT WILL PRESUMABLY
BE USED AS AN EXAMPLE BY THE GDR IN SEEKING
TO INDUCE OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO VISIT EAST
BERLIN IN THE FUTURE. END COMMENT. BOLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN02427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0318
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780477/aaaacnfa.tel
Line Count: 300
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81a6aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3027476
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRUNO KREISKY IN EAST BERLIN
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, GC, US, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81a6aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014